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G.I. JOE
image
#01

# ENERGON UNIVERSE

## CODENAME:

# G.I. JOE

[MISSION LOG [01.001.01]

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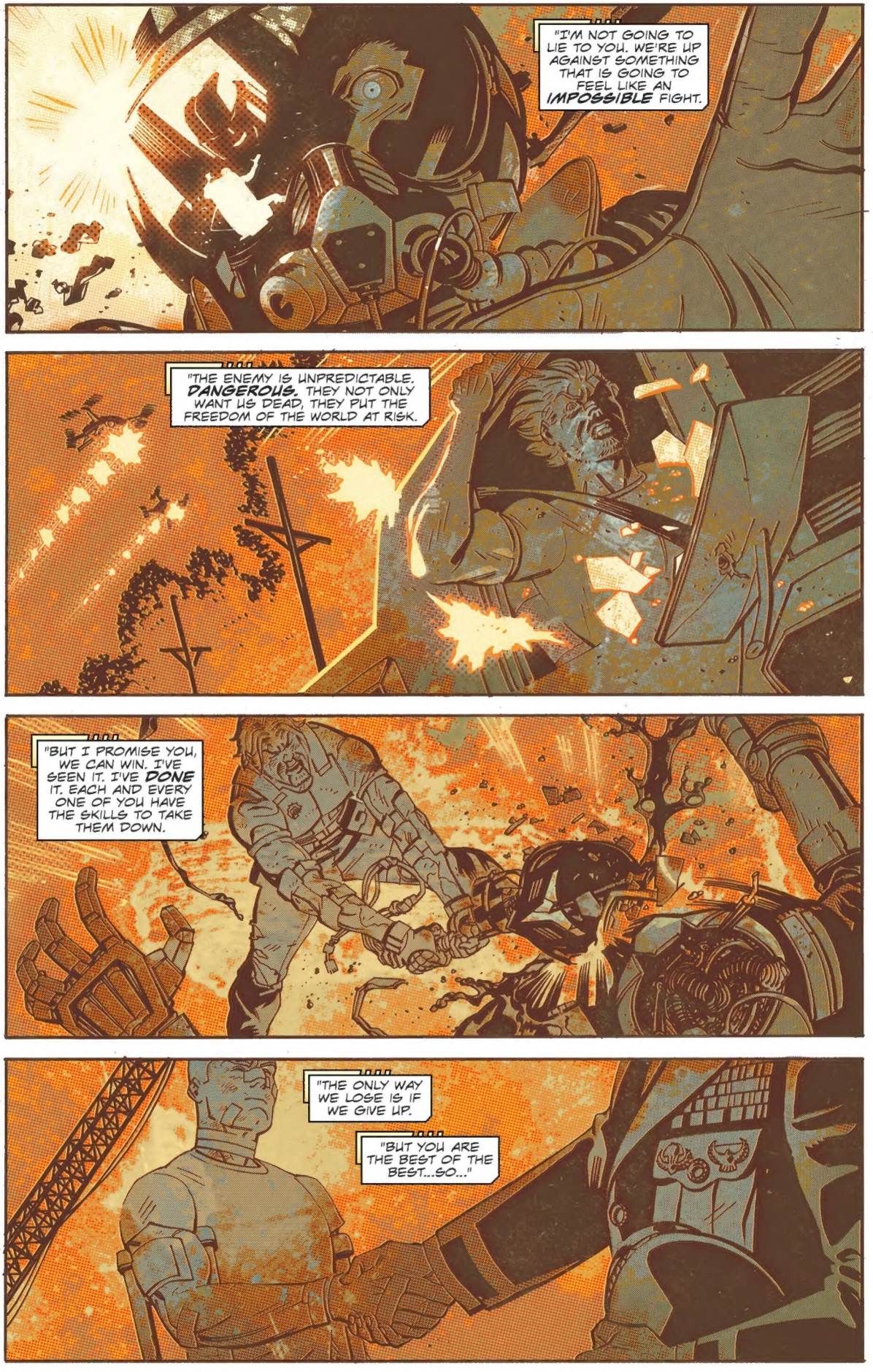
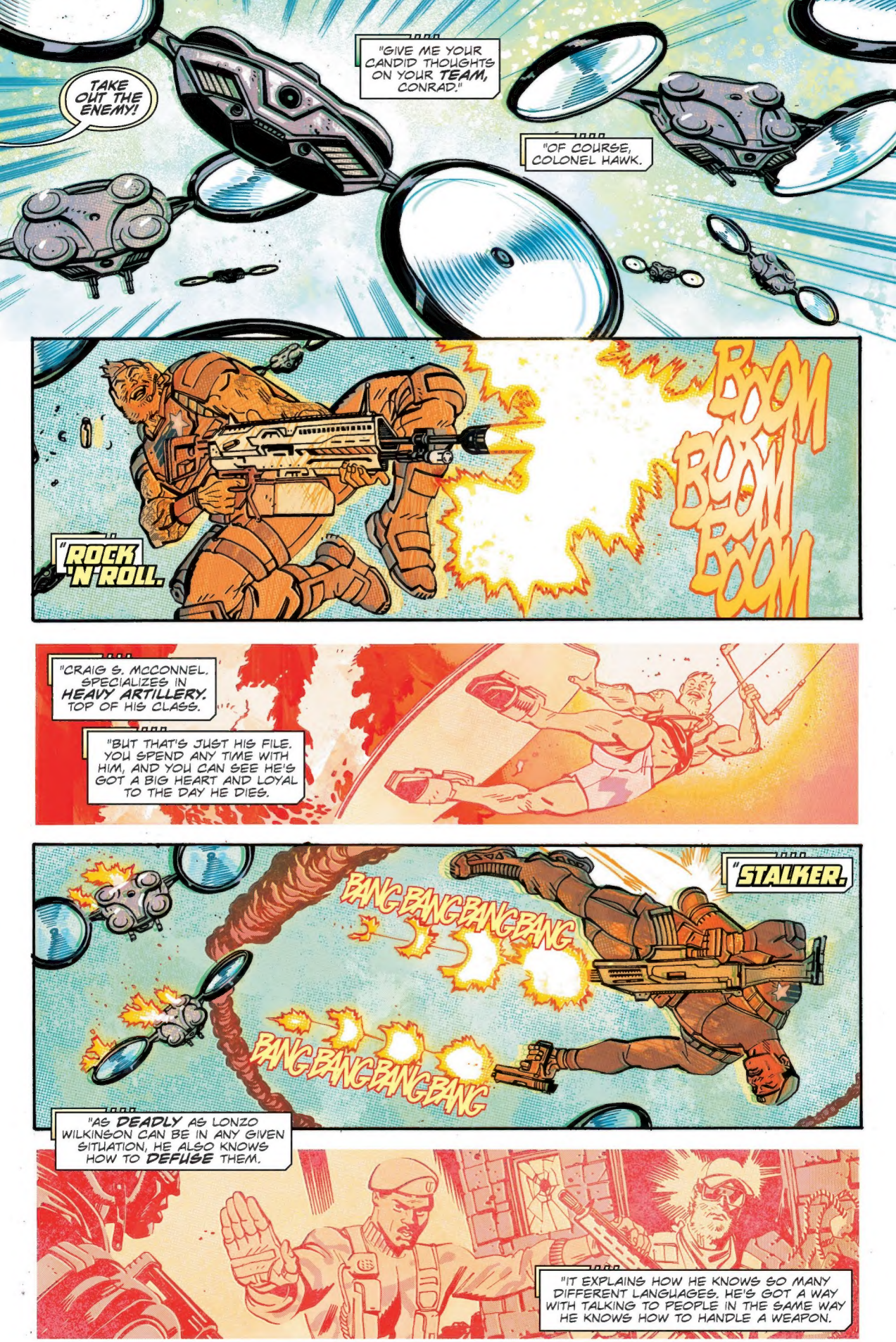
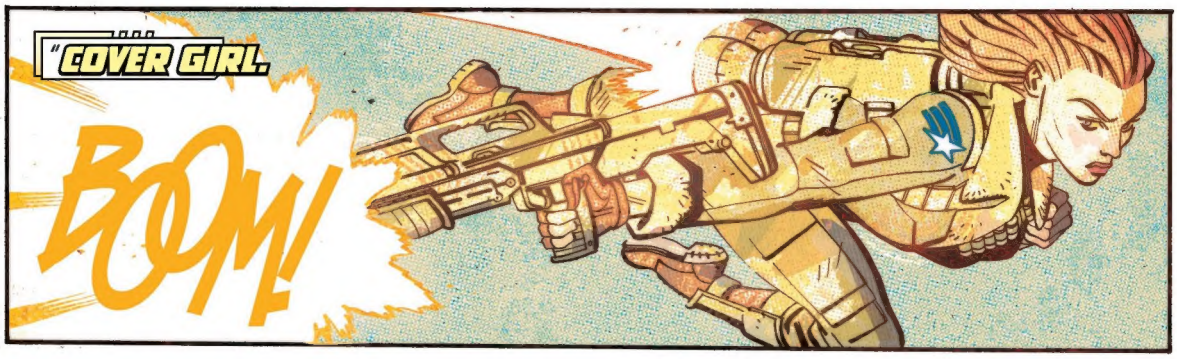

"I'M NOT GOING TO LIE TO YOU. WE'RE UP AGAINST SOMETHING THAT IS GOING TO FEEL LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE FIGHT.
"THE ENEMY IS UNPREDICTABLE. DANGEROUS. THEY NOT ONLY WANT US DEAD, THEY PUT THE FREEDOM OF THE WORLD AT RISK.
"BUT I PROMISE YOU, WE CAN WIN. I'VE SEEN IT. I'VE DONE IT. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU HAVE THE SKILLS TO TAKE THEM DOWN.
"THE ONLY WAY WE LOSE IS IF WE GIVE UP.
"BUT YOU ARE THE BEST OF THE BEST...SO..."

LISTEN UP, SOLDIERS!

HERE IS YOUR OBJECTIVE...

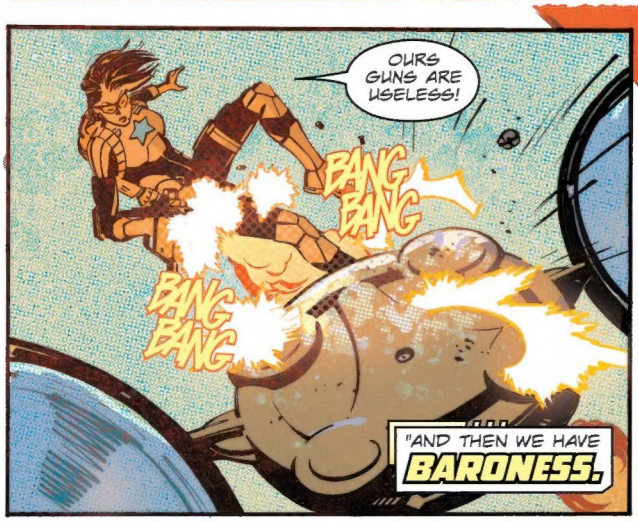

TAKE OUT THE ENEMY!
"GIVE ME YOUR CANDID THOUGHTS ON YOUR TEAM, CONRAD."
"OF COURSE, COLONEL HAWK.
"ROCK 'N' ROLL.
BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM
"CRAIG S. MCCONNEL. SPECIALIZES IN HEAVY ARTILLERY. TOP OF HIS CLASS.
"BUT THAT'S JUST HIS FILE. YOU SPEND ANY TIME WITH HIM, AND YOU CAN SEE HE'S GOT A BIG HEART AND LOYAL TO THE DAY HE DIES.
"STALKER.
BANG BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG BANG
"AS DEADLY AS LONZO WILKINSON CAN BE IN ANY GIVEN SITUATION, HE ALSO KNOWS HOW TO DEFUSE THEM.
"IT EXPLAINS HOW HE KNOWS SO MANY DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. HE'S GOT A WAY WITH TALKING TO PEOPLE IN THE SAME WAY HE KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE A WEAPON.

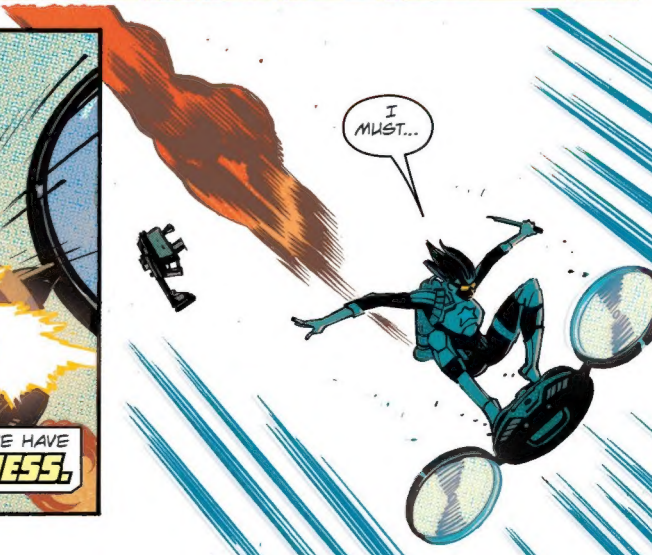

"COVER GIRL.
BOOM!

"COURTNEY KRIEGER USED TO BE A MODEL, BUT HOLY HELL IS SHE SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT.
"SHE BUILDS TANKS THAT CAN TAKE A BEATING. AND SHE AIN'T AFRAID TO TEST THEM HERSELF.

"CLUTCH.

"LANCE STEINBERG IS THE BEST DRIVER I KNOW--IN THE STREETS OR IN THE FIELD. HE HAS HIS FLAWS, MAYBE A LITTLE OLD SCHOOL, I REALIZE THAT.
"BUT IF I NEEDED A RIDE INTO BATTLE, HE'S MY FIRST PICK.

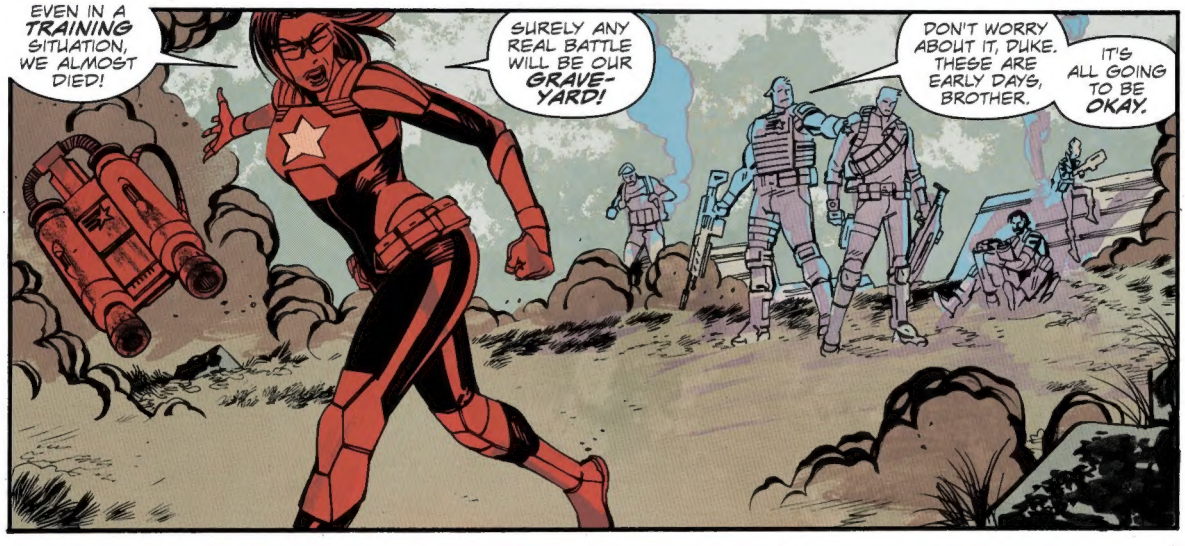

OURS GUNS ARE USELESS!
BANG BANG
BANG BANG
"AND THEN WE HAVE BARONESS.


I MUST...

IMPROVISE!
SLAM
KRRSCHHHZZ
"I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A FAN OF MY CHOICE TO ADD ANASTASIA CIGAROVNA TO THE TEAM, SIR."
"CONSIDERING SHE'S A WAR CRIMINAL YOU MET WHILE YOU WERE BOTH LOCKED UP, NO. NOT IDEAL.
"BUT I CAN'T DENY HER TALENTS."
TIME TO CATCH UP, JOES. IT APPEARS ONLY I HAVE THE SKILLS TO TAKE DOWN OUR--
IZZZ-
THOOSH!
YOU'RE KIDDING ME.

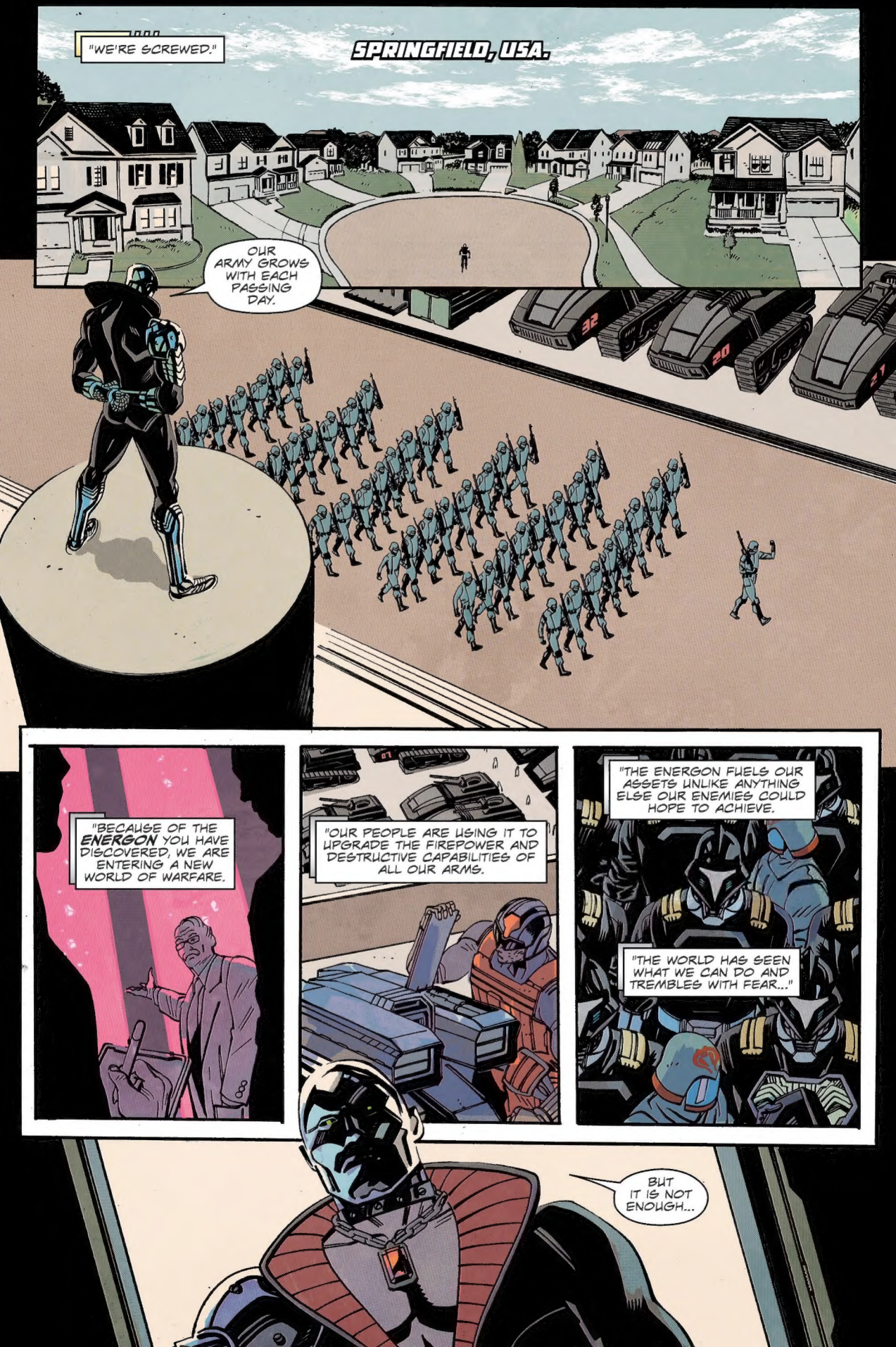
S@#$!
DAMMIT.
PFFT PFFT
COME ON, YOU STUPID CONTRAPTION!
GREAT.
THHOSH!
BOOM!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU FOOL?!
TRYING TO FIX YOUR JET-PACK!
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL US BOTH!

JUST IN TIME.
HARDLY, AMERICAN.
I WOULDN'T NEED YOUR HELP IF YOUR EQUIPMENT WASN'T SO SHODDY!
FFWWHHOOSHH
FFWWHHOOSHH


EVEN IN A TRAINING SITUATION, WE ALMOST DIED!
SURELY ANY REAL BATTLE WILL BE OUR GRAVE-YARD!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, DUKE. THESE ARE EARLY DAYS, BROTHER.
IT'S ALL GOING TO BE OKAY.

BUT BARONESS IS RIGHT, SIR.
WE'RE OUTMATCHED, OUTGUNNED, AND BEHIND IN THE TECH.

WE'RE NOT READY.
IF WE WENT UP AGAINST THE ENEMY TODAY...


"WE'RE SCREWED."
SPRINGFIELD, USA.
OUR ARMY GROWS WITH EACH PASSING DAY.
"BECAUSE OF THE ENERGON YOU HAVE DISCOVERED, WE ARE ENTERING A NEW WORLD OF WARFARE.
"OUR PEOPLE ARE USING IT TO UPGRADE THE FIREPOWER AND DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITIES OF ALL OUR ARMS.
"THE ENERGON FUELS OUR ASSETS UNLIKE ANYTHING ELSE OUR ENEMIES COULD HOPE TO ACHIEVE.
"THE WORLD HAS SEEN WHAT WE CAN DO AND TREMBLES WITH FEAR..."
BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH...

COBRA COMMANDER
FINALLY, WE AGREE ON SOMETHING, DESTRO.
COBRA NEEDS SO MUCH MORE THAN WHAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE AT HAND.
EVERYTHING TO DATE HAS BEEN CHILD'S PLAY COMPARED TO WHAT WE WILL NEED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD.

I BELIEVE I HAVE ENGINEERED SOMETHING THAT WILL SURPRISE YOU.
MERCER.
GOT IT, BOSS.
A RIFLE?
WE ALREADY HAVE PLENTY OF GUNS, DESTRO.
ALL YOU DO IS MAKE GUNS.
I'M BEGINNING TO QUESTION HOW MUCH YOU TRULY BRING TO THIS PARTNERSHIP.
LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOUR AIM IS, COMMANDER.
INDEED.
I'M NOT ENTERTAINED.
HM.

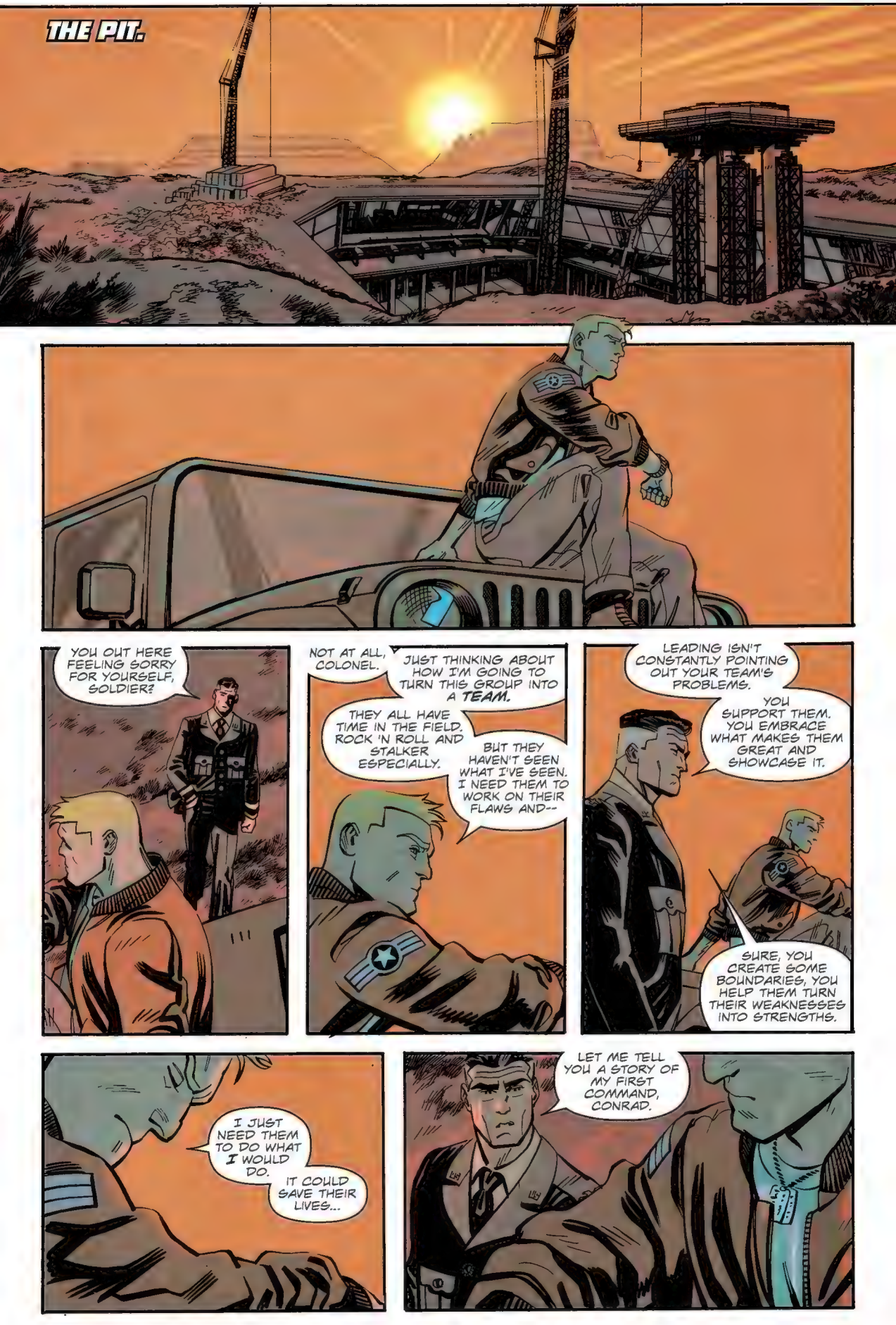
ZAP
ENERGON AT THE PULL OF A TRIGGER.
IMAGINE EVERY MEMBER OF OUR FORCES ARMED WITH ONE.
ALWAYS WANTED MY OWN LASER GUN.
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
YESSSS...
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP

ABU DHABI.
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW.
WINK!
NAH, NAH, NAH.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU I AIN'T TALKING TO YOU. I DON'T CARE WHO YOU WORK FOR, BUDDY.
GET THIS GUY OUTTA HERE, OKAY?
NEVER SHOULD HAVE COME HERE, PRETTY BOY.
ESPECIALLY UNARMED.
YOU JUST LOOKING FOR TROUBLE?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
KRAK!
KILL HIM!
I PREFER MY FIGHTS IN A CAGE...
BUT I COULD USE A WORKOUT.

KRAK!
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
KRAK!

KRASH
YOU READY TO LISTEN?
Y-Y-Y-YES.
GOOD. DON'T SELL TO M.A.R.S. INDUSTRIES.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
EXCUSE ME.
Risk. Change in plans. Return home.


THE PIT.
YOU OUT HERE FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF, SOLDIER?
NOT AT ALL, COLONEL.
JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW I'M GOING TO TURN THIS GROUP INTO A TEAM.
THEY ALL HAVE TIME IN THE FIELD. ROCK 'N ROLL AND STALKER ESPECIALLY.
BUT THEY HAVEN'T SEEN WHAT I'VE SEEN. I NEED THEM TO WORK ON THEIR FLAWS AND--
LEADING ISN'T CONSTANTLY POINTING OUT YOUR TEAM'S PROBLEMS.
YOU SUPPORT THEM. YOU EMBRACE WHAT MAKES THEM GREAT AND SHOWCASE IT.
SURE, YOU CREATE SOME BOUNDARIES, YOU HELP THEM TURN THEIR WEAKNESSES INTO STRENGTHS.
I JUST NEED THEM TO DO WHAT I WOULD DO.
IT COULD SAVE THEIR LIVES...
LET ME TELL YOU A STORY OF MY FIRST COMMAND, CONRAD.

I THOUGHT I KNEW MY CREW. WE HAD BEEN ON COUNTLESS TRAINING SIMULATIONS TOGETHER. WE WERE A WELL-OILED AMERICAN FIGHTING MACHINE.
I TRAINED THEM TO BE JUST LIKE ME.
BUT THAT ALL WENT OUT THE WINDOW ONCE WE WE HIT THE FIELD OF BATTLE. AND WHO THEY REALLY WERE TOOK OVER. IT WAS HOW WE SURVIVED. IT WAS WHAT MADE THEM GREAT.
AND FROM THAT POINT ON, OUR BOND WAS FORGED IN FIRE.
MY POINT IS...
WE ALREADY GOT YOU. WE DON'T NEED MORE.
WE NEED THEM TO BE THE BEST VERSIONS OF THEMSELVES.
AND THAT IS WHAT IS GOING TO MAKE G.I. JOE DIFFERENT THAN ANY OTHER COMMAND YOU'VE EVER HAD AND ANY TEAM IN THE WORLD.
I READ YOU, SIR. I'LL GET IT TOGETHER.
GOOD. GOOD.
NOW GO BACK TO YOUR BARRACKS AND GET SOME REST.
TOMORROW IS GOING TO BE A VERY BUSY DAY.
SIR?
SHOOT, I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE LED OFF WITH THAT.
YOU'RE GOING ON YOUR FIRST MISSION...

THE NEXT MORNING.
WHAT YA GOT THERE, CLUTCH?
MULTI-PURPOSE ATTACK VEHICLE.
I CALL IT THE VAMP.
I BUILT SOMETHING LIKE IT BEFORE, BUT I'M UPDATING IT FOR G.I. JOE.
NEEDS MORE FIRE POWER.
I AGREE...
HEY, COVER GIRL...WHY THE DYE JOB? I LIKED YOU WITH THE AUBURN HAIR.
THAT'S WHY I CHANGED IT.
HA! SHE GOT YA!
SLAP!
PAY ATTENTION, JOES.
YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF WHY CODENAME: G.I. JOE WAS FORMED.
TO FIND AND COMBAT DEADLY EMERGING WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY...
ESPECIALLY MASSIVE ROBOTS THAT DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS VEHICLES.
RECENTLY, WE BECAME AWARE OF A NEW INCIDENT...

THERE WERE SIGHTINGS OF OUR ROBOT ENEMIES IN THE PACIFIC. SOME KIND OF MASSIVE CRASH.

A LARGE SECTION OF THEIR TECHNOLOGY WAS RECEOVERED, AND A ***SHARD*** OF IT IS BEING TRANSPORTED TO A SECURE LAB IN COLORADO TO BE STUDIED.

HOWEVER, THERE'S BEEN A SERIES OF BREAK-INS AT WEAPONS AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES, INCLUDING ***M.A.R.S. INDUSTRIES.***

WE'RE CONCERNED SOMEONE IS MAKING A PLAY AT THE SAME KIND OF ADVANCED WEAPONS WE'RE OUT TO STOP.

BECAUSE OF OUR NEW TECHNOLOGY, WE CAN ***TRACK*** TRACES OF ENERGON, WHICH HAS LED US TO A LAB IN COLORADO.

SUPPORT MERCER AND HIS VIPERS.

ALLOW THEM TO ACQUIRE THE TECHNOLOGY AND GET OUT AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN.

"THE JOES' MISSION IS TO PROTECT THE TECHNOLOGY AS IT'S STUDIED, BEFORE BEING TAKEN TO A MORE SECURE FACILITY.

"IT MUST NOT FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS."

HOLD THAT THOUGHT, DESTRO.

THIS IS A MOMENT TO SEE THE FULL FORCE OF THESE WONDERFUL WEAPONS YOU HAVE DEVELOPED.

KILL EVERYONE THERE BUT ***ONE.*** LEAVE A WITNESS TO SPREAD THE WORD OF OUR GLORY. LET THEM FEAR THE NAME...

COBRA.

AND THIS IS HOW WE SAVE THE WORLD?

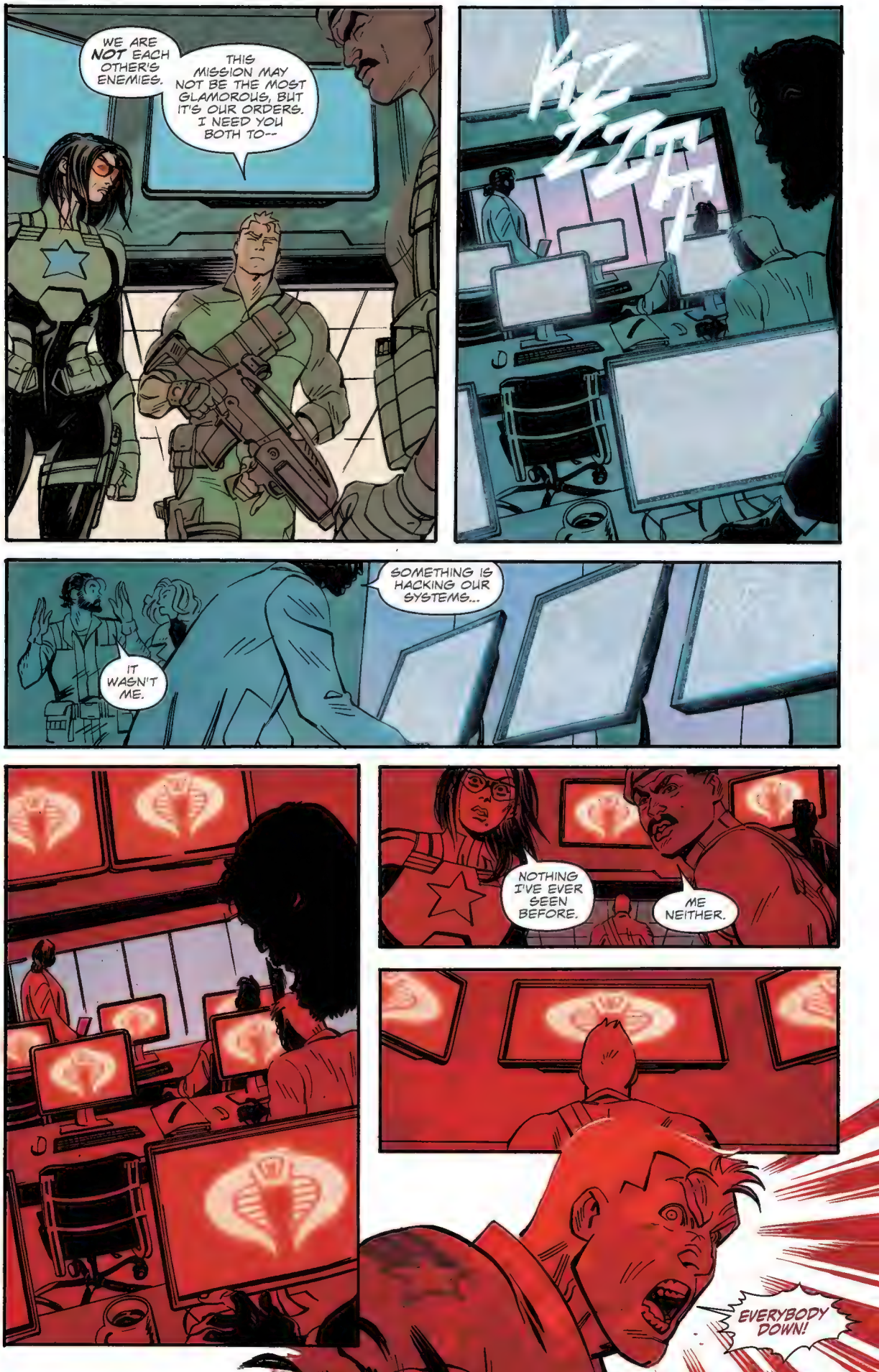
BABYSITTING?
THIS IS A WASTE OF MY TIME AND TALENTS.

YOU CAN GO ANY TIME YOU WANT, BARONESS.
I'D RATHER NOT BE ON THE SAME TEAM AS A WAR CRIMINAL, ANYWAY.

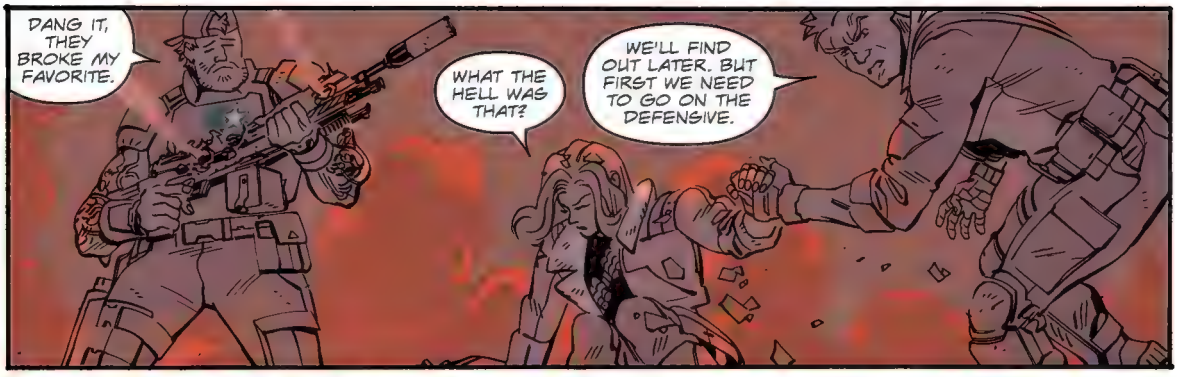
ЗАТКНИСЬ, ГЛУПАЯ СТАРАЯ СВИНЬЯ. ИЛИ Я ПЕРЕРЕЖУ ТЕБЕ ШЕЮ ВО СНЕ.

ОН УЕАН?
ПОПРОБУЙ, И Я НЕ ТОЛЬКО НАДЕРУ ТЕБЕ ЗАДНИЦУ, Я ОТТАЩУ ТЕБЯ ОБРАТНО К ТВОИМ МАТЕРИ И ОТЦУ И ПОКАЖУ ИМ, КАК ИХ МАЛЕНЬКАЯ ПРИНЦЕССА ПРЕВРАТИЛАСЬ В ПУСТУЮ ЖИЗНЬ. ОНИ ПРИВЕЛИ ТЕБЯ В ЭТОТ МИР, ТАК ЧТО, ВОЗМОЖНО, ОНИ СДЕЛАЮТ НАМ ВСЕМ ОДОЛЖЕНИЕ И ЗАБЕРУТ ТЕБЯ.

HOW-- HOW DARE YOU?!
ENOUGH.


WE ARE NOT EACH OTHER'S ENEMIES.
THIS MISSION MAY NOT BE THE MOST GLAMOROUS, BUT IT'S OUR ORDERS. I NEED YOU BOTH TO--
BZZT
SOMETHING IS HACKING OUR SYSTEMS...
IT WASN'T ME.
NOTHING I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE.
ME NEITHER.
EVERYBODY DOWN!

WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP
BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG
HIT IT!
GET UPSTAIRS FAST!
1


DANG IT, THEY BROKE MY FAVORITE.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
WE'LL FIND OUT LATER. BUT FIRST WE NEED TO GO ON THE DEFENSIVE.

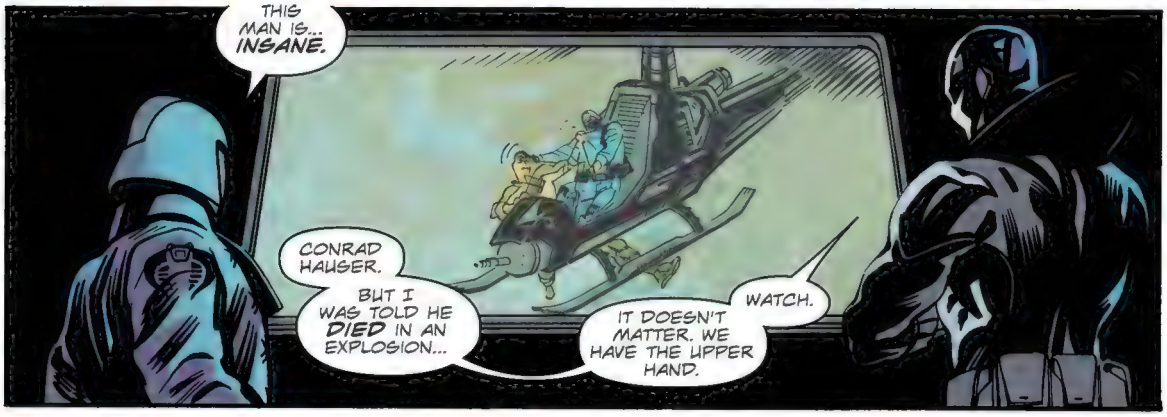
"MY GUT TELLS ME WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE COMPANY."

ROCK 'N ROLL, CLUTCH, AND COVER GIRL, GET THE ASSET OUT OF HERE!
STALKER AND BARONESS, COVER THEM!

AND WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING, AMERICAN?

WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP

TAKING OUT THEIR AIR COVER!

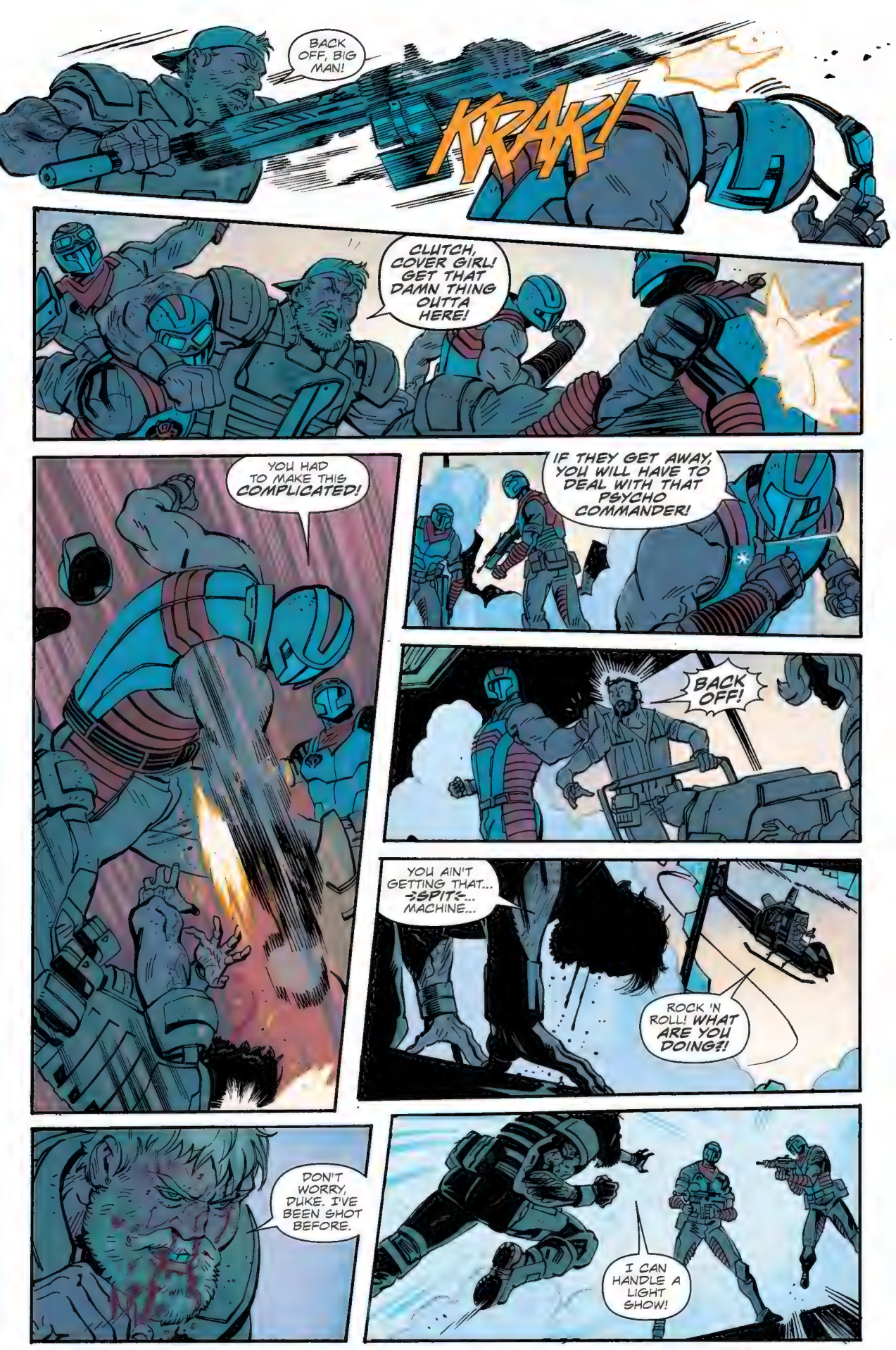

THIS MAN IS... INSANE.
CONRAD HAUSER.
BUT I WAS TOLD HE DIED IN AN EXPLOSION...
IT DOESN'T MATTER. WE HAVE THE UPPER HAND.
WATCH.

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG

WHO ARE THEY?!

I DON'T KNOW!
YANK!
AAHHHHHHA!
YOU TWO BETTER HURRY UP!
THE SHARD IS TOO BIG TO CARRY!
WE GOTTA GET IT ON THE DOLLY!
BANGBANGBANGBANG
THEY'RE RETREATING! I THINK WE...
DING
DING
DING
TNK
S#*%!
BOOM!

ZAP ZAP
THEY'RE TRYING TO MOVE THE ROBOT TECH, VIPERS.
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
ZAP ZAP
ZAP ZAP
ZAP ZAP
WHAT KIND OF GUNS ARE THOSE?!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
LASERS?!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
IF WE BREAK THIS, DOES THAT MEAN WE HAVE TO BUY IT?
HARDLY THE TIME FOR JOKES, CLUTCH!
IF YOU WANT TO GIFT WRAP THAT FOR US, THAT WOULD BE JUST FINE.


BACK OFF, BIG MAN!
KRAK!
CLUTCH, COVER GIRL! GET THAT DAMN THING OUTTA HERE!
YOU HAD TO MAKE THIS COMPLICATED!
IF THEY GET AWAY, YOU WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT PSYCHO COMMANDER!
BACK OFF!
YOU AIN'T GETTING THAT... ->SPIT<-... MACHINE...
ROCK 'N ROLL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
DON'T WORRY, DUKE. I'VE BEEN SHOT BEFORE.
I CAN HANDLE A LIGHT SHOW!

ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
TO BE CONTINUED...

"I want to play with all the toys."

We're finally here! We did it!

For years, Skybound and I have worked toward this moment. To reveal our version of G.I. JOE to the world. And it's awesome to know it's finally in your hands!

If you've read the write ups I've done about G.I. Joe before, I repeat a few things…

The biggest challenge I've run into with this series is patience. There are so many cool stories, characters and toys that I want to play with. I want to get my hands on the entire cast of G.I. Joe and Cobra characters NOW.

And that I loved G.I. Joe as a kid. That G.I. Joe was my favorite cartoon and toy line. That I obsessed over the characters, the file cards and the vehicles. And that I was a bit more of a Cobra kid.

But I have to say…working on it now, I feel like I've discovered it in a whole new way. That my love for it has only grown as I write the characters. But a major factor has been the response from the fans.

To hear from OG Joe fans that they love what we're doing with the Energon Universe, but also hearing from new fans. Readers who never read or watched, or were into the G.I. Joe toys, now finding out about it through the work that we're doing. Because of the DUKE and COBRA COMMANDER miniseries, new readers are uncovering a massive and rich mythology.

Then to see that response continue with DESTRO and SCARLETT! There is a reason G.I. Joe has endured the last 40 years, and it's because of the love of the fans. So, to know that we're growing that love with new fans has been inspiring.

When DUKE and COBRA COMMANDER were starting to come out, I had no idea what to expect. How people were going to respond to the changes we were making. How we were taking the core of G.I. Joe and starting at the beginning, then throwing in a bunch of new twists and turns. I knew that my Duke was going to be a rebel. Not the boy scout you might expect. I knew my Cobra Commander was going to be "weird". A creature of brutality instead of one who retreats. That we were taking an unexpected approach to introducing the epic conflict between G.I. Joe and Cobra. And the response was tremendous, so it's exciting to see these two sides of the story collide in a major way with this first issue.

With this new series, we're taking what worked from the first four miniseries… the energy and passion we showed in those books and amping them up way past 11. The story and world can only get bigger from here. Tom, Jordie and I are putting so much onto the page to give you the best G.I. JOE series we can. If you enjoyed what we've done so far, you haven't seen anything yet.

We have so much planned. Not just big action, but character pieces that showcase why we love this cast. To take our time and let them breathe. Really showcase why these characters are amazing but also bring them into our world in new and fun ways.

Stories about Cobra Commander, Duke, Baroness. The list goes on and on. And when the Dreadnoks show up next…don't even get me started! That story is going to be one of the wildest things I've ever written in comics.

Here in this first issue we start to see how G.I. JOE connects with the larger Energon Universe. But just like VOID RIVALS and TRANSFORMERS, the story will grow bigger with each issue.

As I said at the start of this…patience has been an issue for me at times. But it's just because I'm excited to explore and discover even more of the G.I. Joe universe with you. I don't just want to play with all the toys. I want to make new ones that we can all play with together.

I assure you that this series is a long-term commitment for us. We're just getting started. We're making some of the best comics on the stands and that isn't ending any time soon.

Write to us and tell us which Joes and Cobra you're looking forward to seeing enter the arena of the Energon Universe. You never know…your favorite might appear next!

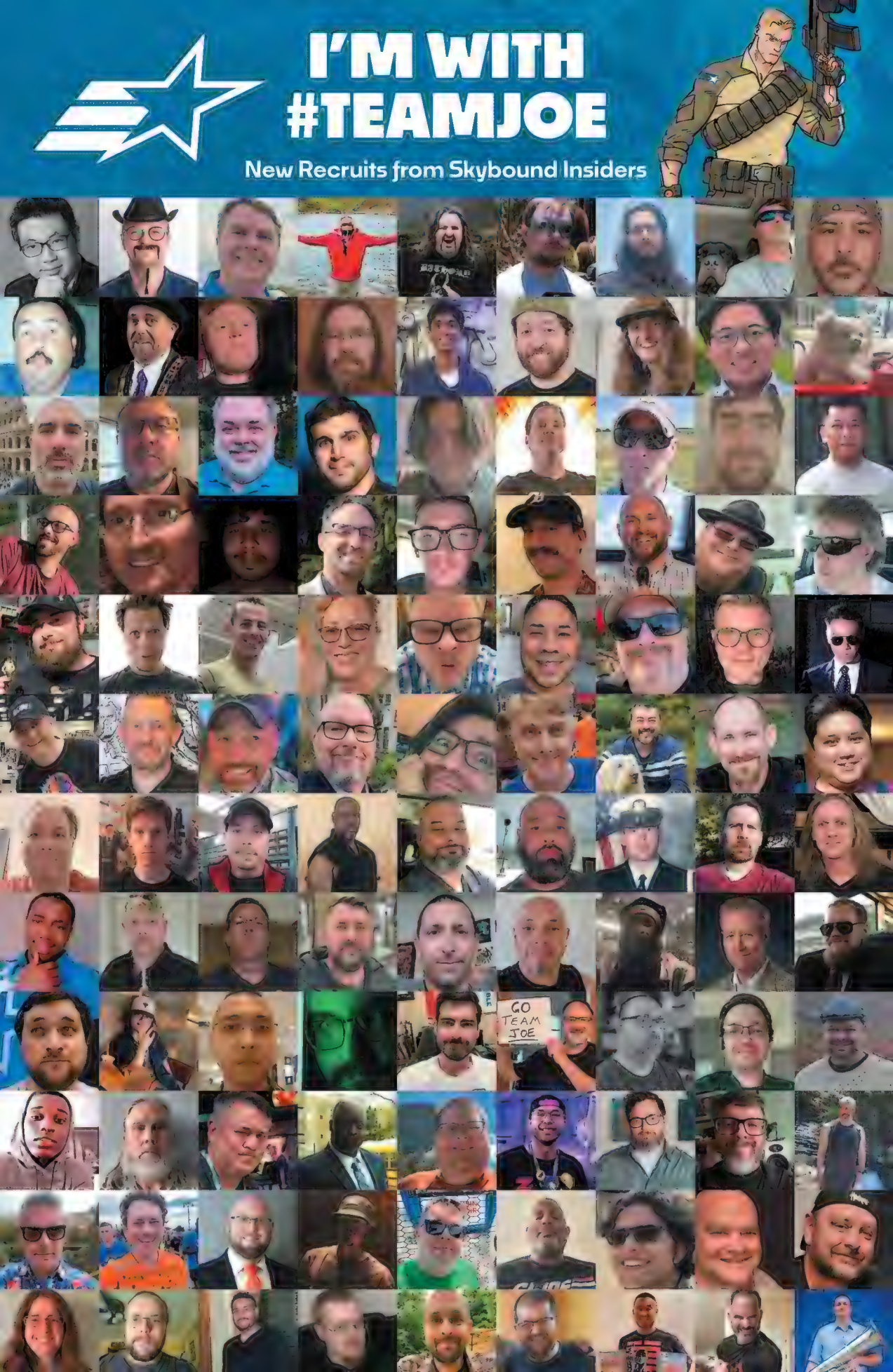
Last time I wrote one of these I ended with a YO JOE! So, for this one I'll end with…

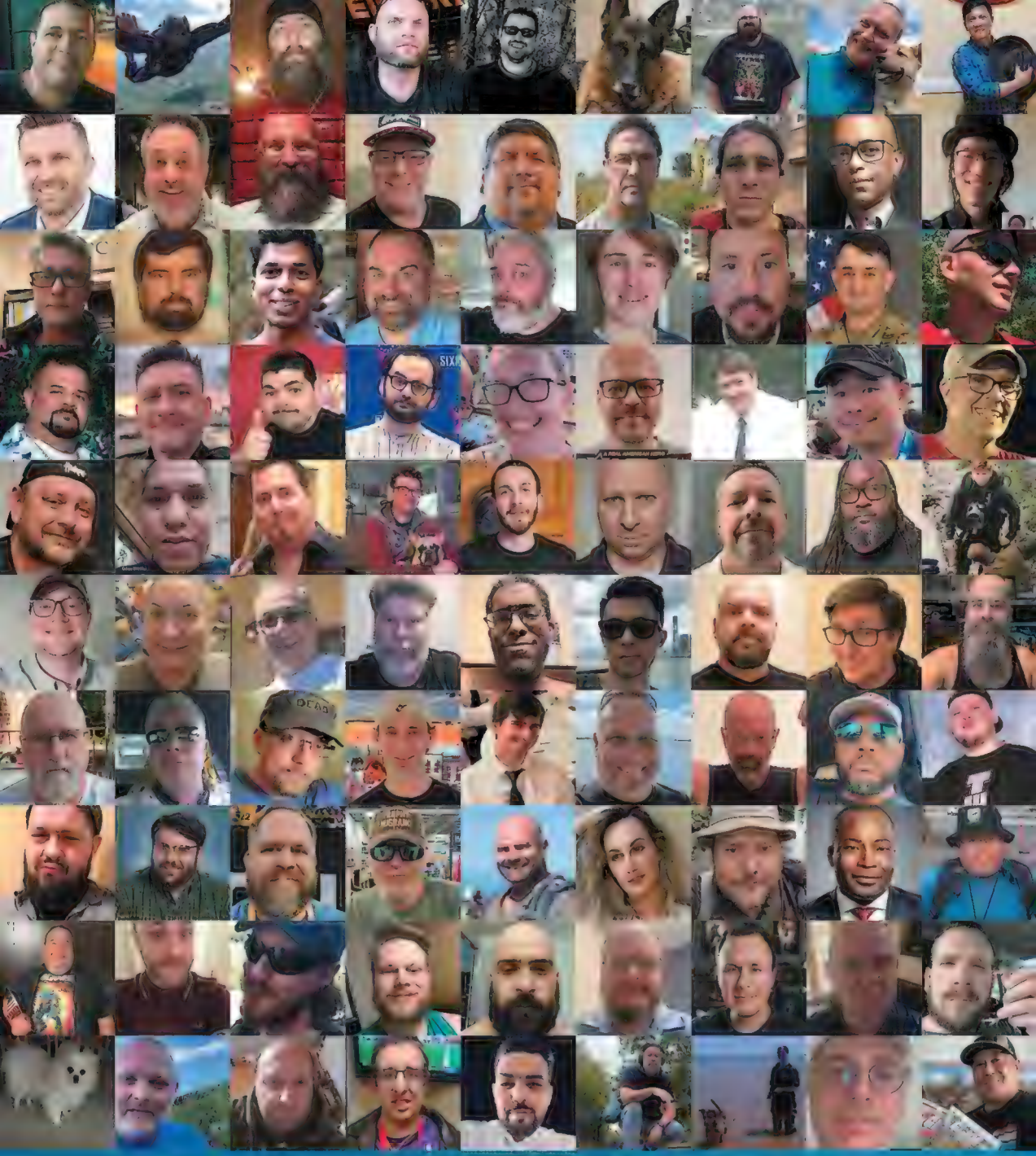
COBRRRAAAAAAAA!

Joshua Williamson
Portland, Oregon
October 2024

# I'M WITH #TEAMJOE

New Recruits from Skybound Insiders





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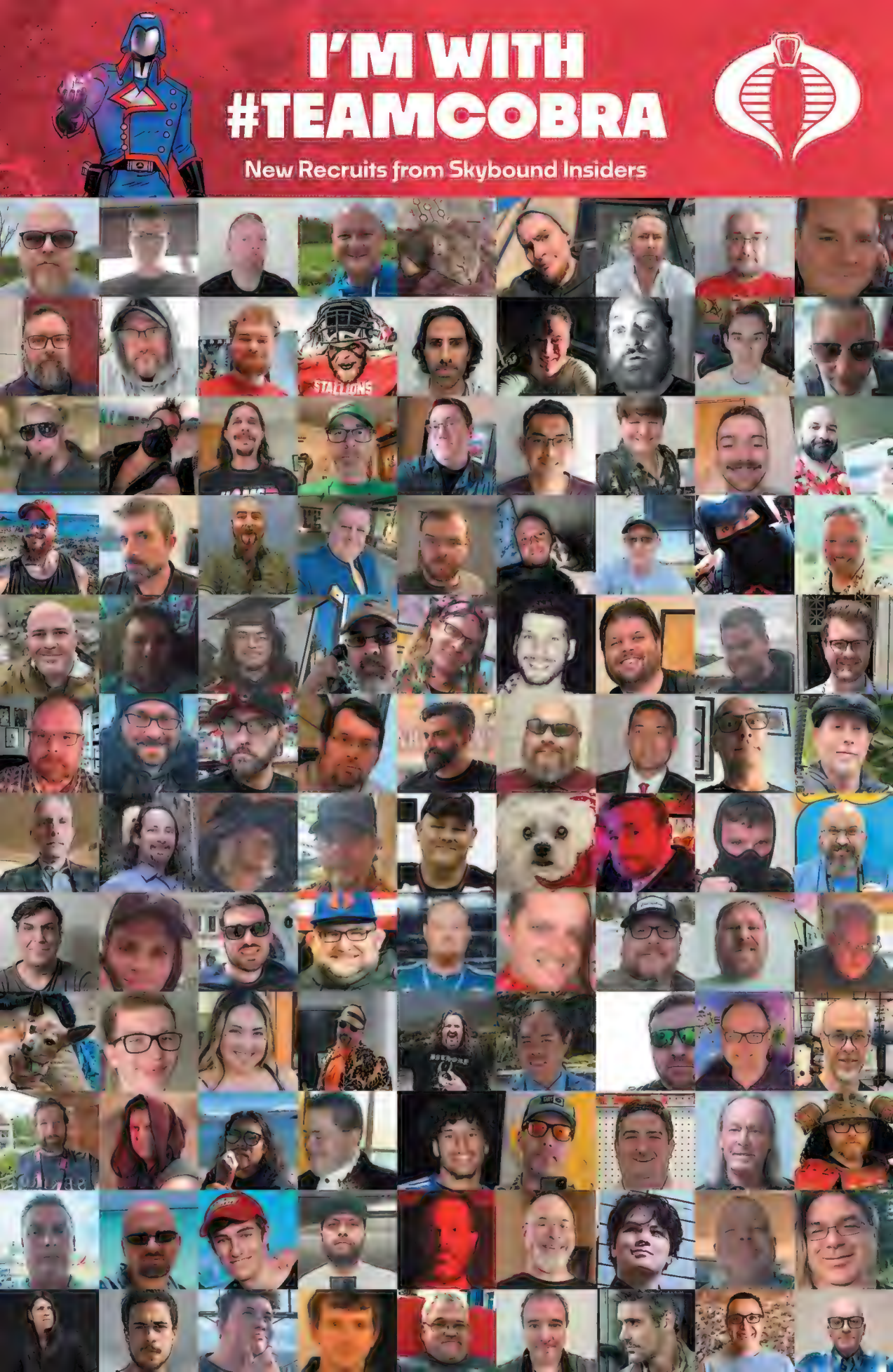
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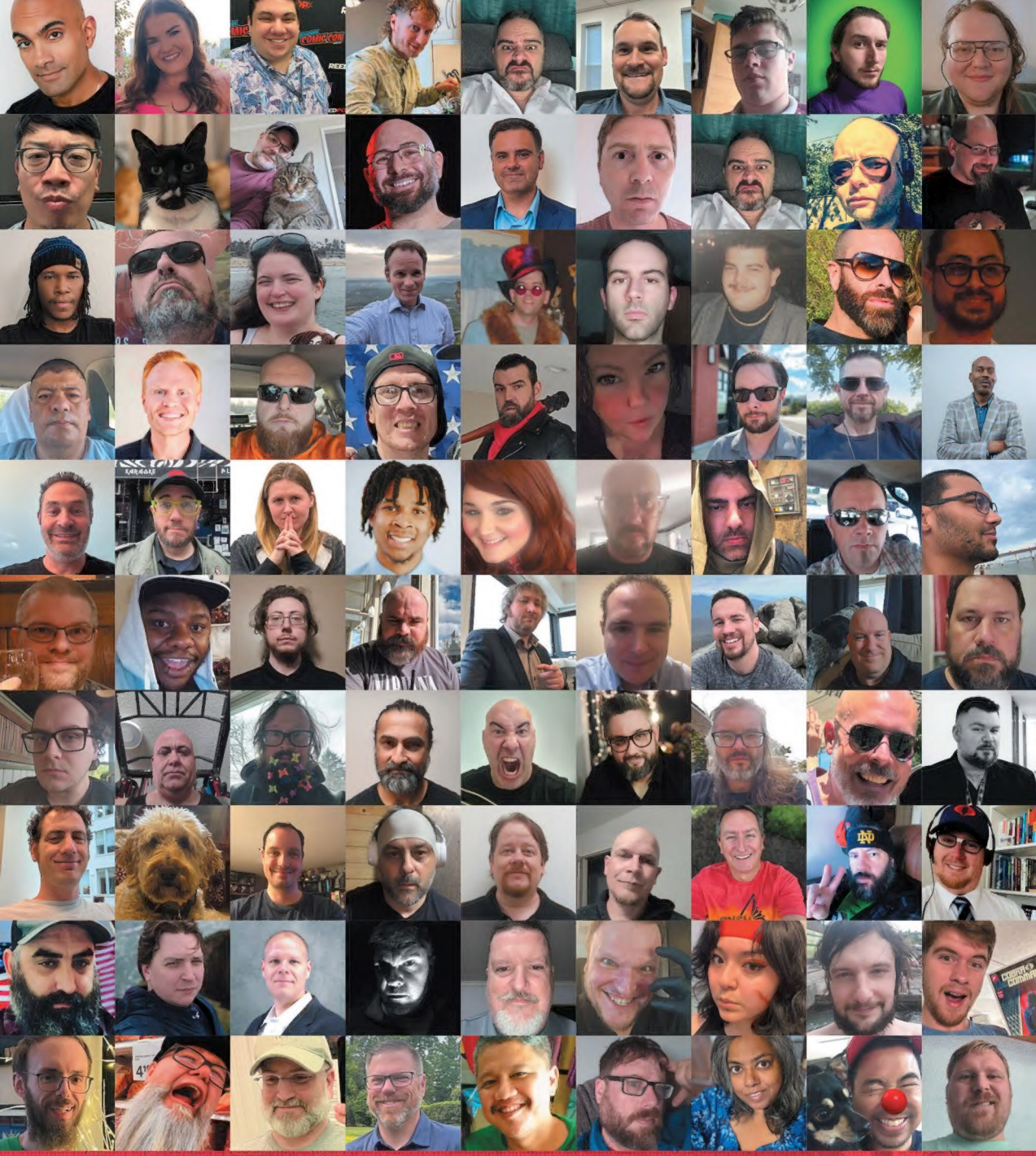

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